

REMARKS

Applicants have amended the claims to more clearly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. Now pending are independent claim 1 and dependent claims 5-8, 13, 14 and 16.

Briefly, the invention relates to a bag comprised of a first partial bag and a second partial bag. The first partial bag is comprised of a front panel with a zipper access opening to the interior of the bag. The backside of the first partial bag is open and is attached to the second, larger sized partial bag. Each of the partial bags is made from a flexible material. Typically, the flexible materials of each partial bag are the same fabric material. The partial bags are made from a flexible material so that they can be folded one into the other, be easily carried and are lightweight, yet rugged. The second bag may be placed into the first bag and maintained therein by means of fastening equal length fastening mechanisms to thereby attach a portion of the second bag to a fastening mechanism surrounding a peripheral opening in the first bag. The first partial bag is about 25% or less in terms of capacity relative to the second partial bag. The relative size distinction of the partial bags was pointed out as being an important feature of the invention for purposes of compactness, storage, shipment and the like.

The Examiner rejected the pending claims 1, 5-10, 13 and 14 as either anticipated or obvious in view of the prior art references of Miller, U.S. Patent No. 6,305,587 alone or taken with Kepper, U.S. Patent No. 2,729,257. Among the distinguishing features, as now set forth in the claims and emphasized with greater particularity, is the feature that the bag material is flexible. Also, the relative sizes or capacity of the two connected partial bags is set forth. That is, the first partial bag enclosure is smaller, typically about 25% or less, relative to the second partial bag enclosure. The first bag enclosure has an access opening. The second bag fits into

the first bag interior through an opening in the first bag and is maintained therein when the fastening mechanisms are engaged.

Miller merely teaches a single bag that is collapsible from a large backpack form to a hard sided case form. There is no second bag which fits into a first bag. There is no opening in a first bag into which the second bag may be fitted. The relative size of the enclosures or bags in Miller is not relevant since in Miller, a single large bag merely contracts between an expanded and reduced size. In Miller, the collapsed bag has non-flexible sides.

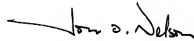
Kepper does not provide the features or teachings necessary to render the claims obvious. For example, Kepper does not teach the idea of the placement of a second bag into a first bag. In fact, the opposite is taught. The so called lengthening portion in Kepper collapses into the space underneath the false bottom 7. It does not enter the interior of the first bag 1 as claimed by applicants herein. Kepper thus teaches the use of a false bottom 7 to separate the bag sections (1 and 6) from one another. That is, the first bag 1 and second partial bag 6 of Kepper are designed to be maintained as separate enclosures which connect only when in the expanded condition.

The relative size of the partial bags of Kepper does not comport with that which is set forth in the claims presently presented. It is noted that in the claims presently presented the correlation of the size of the partial bag constructions is set forth as an important feature of the invention. The first partial bag is smaller than the second partial bag. This enables the bags, when opened or expanded, to provide adequate significant storage capacity, but the combined bags will occupy very little space when appropriately combined as taught in the specification and claimed because the second partial bag is fitted into the first partial bag. This becomes important for purposes of storage of the bags, shipment and the like.

Thus, it is believed in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks that the claims in their amended condition are distinguishable from the prior art references taken alone or in combination. Reconsideration thereof and passage to allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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